



**MAYOR BYRON W. BROWN**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MAYOR BROWN ANNOUNCES SUSPENSION OF NEW VAPE SHOP LICENSES FOR SIX MONTHS**

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Buffalo, NY – Mayor Byron W. Brown today announced that he is issuing a six-month moratorium on the opening of new stores that sell electronic cigarettes, commonly known as “vaping”, and other e-cigarette supplies. The resolution, sponsored by Delaware District Common Council Member Joel Feroletto, was unanimously adopted by the Buffalo Common Council on September 3rd, 2019.

“This is a matter of safety and public health,” said Mayor Byron Brown. “There remain too many unknown factors connected to vaping. This moratorium gives us time to learn more about the health impacts of these product on residents. I thank Delaware District Council Member Joel Feroletto for his concern on this matter and I will continue to work with my partners in government on this important public health issue.”

“Health is definitely the main concern with vaping and we need to learn more from medical experts on the safety of these products,” said Delaware District Council Member Joel Feroletto. “Residents need to know and understand the risks and potential harm associated with these substances.”

In August, New York State Department of Health issued an advisory about harmful health hazards possibly related to the use of electronic cigarettes. The Health Department says cases of severe pulmonary disease have been reported in New York State among patients who reported recent use of vape products. As of the date of this alert, 10 cases have been reported across New York State, including here in Western New York. Patients have ranged in age from 18-49 years old. The Department recommends that anyone who uses vaping products and has concerning respiratory symptoms should stop using the product and consult their healthcare provider. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the New York Department of Health are currently researching the cause or causes of this outbreak.

The City of Buffalo issues licenses and special use permits pursuant to Section 399-13.1 and Chapter 496 of the City of Buffalo Code for the sale of tobacco and electronically delivered nicotine, commonly referred to as “vapes” or “electronic cigarettes. The resolution requires a moratorium on the issuance of these special use permits while these studies and investigations are ongoing.

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